Amendments to the Claims

The following Listing of the Claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-24 (Cancelled).

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): Macromolecular hydrophilic photocrosslinker having a general formula

$$(A)_n(B)_m(C)_p$$

eapable of producing, upon exposure to light, crosslinked networks, wherein

- (i) A, B and C are units of substituted ethylene groups in the macromolecular structure;
- (ii) A, B and C are randomly distributed and the unit C carries a photoactive group, which is an acyl phosphine oxide or aroyl phosphine oxide;
- (iii) n = 0.98 mole %, m = 0.98 mole %, n+m = 50.98 mole % and p = 0.5.50 mole %;

and the photoactive group is linked to the ethylene groups of units C by a linking group comprising a group having the structure -O-C(O)-NH-, and wherein the photoactive groups are adapted, upon exposure to light of wavelength above 305 nm, to generate radicals retained on the macromolecular photocrosslinker and adapted to react to provide a crosslinked network structure.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): Macromolecular hydrophilic photocrosslinker according to claim 25 wherein the linking group has the structure of -O-C(O)-NH-Ph-, wherein Ph denotes an optionally substituted phenylene group.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): Macromolecular hydrophilic photocrosslinker having a general formula

 $(A)_n(B)_m(C)_n$

wherein R¹ is hydrogen or methyl;

eapable of producing, upon exposure to light, crosslinked networks, wherein

- (i) A, B and C are units of substituted ethylene groups in the macromolecular structure;
- (ii) A, B and C are randomly distributed and the unit C carries a photoactive group, which is an acyl phosphine oxide or aroyl phosphine oxide;
- (iii) n = 0.98 mole %, m = 0.98 mole %, n+m = 50.98 mole % and p = 0.5-50 mole %;

and the ethylene units A, B and C comprise substituents in accordance with A = $-CH_2-C(R^1R^2)-$, B = $-CH_2-C(R^1R^3)-$, C = $-CH_2-C(R^1R^4)-$,

R² is -CON(Me)₂, -CO₂CH₂CH₂OH, -OCOCH₃, -OCOCH₂CH₂Ph, -OH or a lactam group; R³ is -CON(Me)₂, -CO₂CH₂CH₂OH, -OCOCH₃, -OCOCH₂CH₂Ph, -OH or a lactam group when B is -CH₂-C(R¹R³)- with the proviso that R² and R³ are not the same unless R² and R³ are -OH; and

R⁴ is -R⁵P(O)R⁶OC(O)R⁷, wherein R⁵, R⁶ and R⁷ each individually comprises a phenyl, methylphenyl, dimethylphenyl, methylphenyl, dimethylphenyl, dimethylphenyl, dimethylphenyl, trimethylolphenyl or styryl radical, and wherein the photoactive groups are adapted, upon exposure to light of wavelength above 305 nm, to generate radicals retained on the macromolecular photocrosslinker and adapted to react to provide a crosslinked network structure.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): Macromolecular hydrophilic photocrosslinker according to claim 27, wherein R^2 and R^3 are selected so as to form a water-soluble molecule.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): Macromolecular hydrophilic photocrosslinker according to claim 27, wherein said lactam groups together with units A or B constitute N-vinylpyrrolidone units.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): Macromolecular hydrophilic photocrosslinker according to claim 27, wherein at least one of R² and R³ is hydroxyl.

Claim 31 (Currently Amended): Macromolecular hydrophilic photocrosslinker according to claim 27, wherein A is N- vinylpyrrolidone, and B is vinyl alcohol.

Claim 32 (Currently Amended): Macromolecular hydrophilic photocrosslinker having a general formula

$$(A)_n(B)_m(C)_p$$

capable of producing, upon exposure to light, crosslinked networks, wherein

- (i) A, B and C are units of substituted ethylene groups in the macromolecular structure:
- (ii) A, B and C are randomly distributed and the unit C carries a photoactive group, which is an acyl phosphine oxide or aroyl phosphine oxide;
- (iii) n = 0.98 mole %, m = 0.98 mole %, n+m = 50.98 mole % and p = 0.5-50 mole %;

and the ethylene units A, B and C comprise substituents in accordance with $A = -CH_2-C(R^1R^2)-$, $B = -CH_2-C(R^1R^3)-$, $C = -CH_2-C(R^1R^4)-$,

wherein R¹ is hydrogen or methyl;

R² is -CON(Me)₂, -CO₂CH₂CH₂OH, -OCOCH₃, -OCOCH₂CH₂Ph, -OH or a lactam group;

 R^3 is $-CON(Me)_2$, $-CO_2CH_2CH_2OH$, $-OCOCH_3$, $-OCOCH_2CH_2Ph$, -OH or a lactam group when B is $-CH_2-C(R^1R^3)$ - with the proviso that R^2 and R^3 are not the same unless R^2 and R^3 are -OH; and

R⁴ is -R⁸C(O)P(O)R⁹ R¹⁰, wherein R⁸ is -O-C(O)-NH-R¹¹ and R⁹, R¹⁰ and R¹¹ each individually comprises a phenyl, methylphenyl, dimethylphenyl, trimethylphenyl, methoxyphenyl, dimethoxyphenyl, methylolphenyl, dimethylolphenyl, trimethylolphenyl or styryl radical,

and wherein the photoactive groups are adapted, upon exposure to light of wavelength above 305 nm, to generate radicals retained on the macromolecular photocrosslinker and adapted to react to provide a crosslinked network structure.

Claim 33 (Currently Amended): Macromolecular hydrophilic photocrosslinker according to claim 32, wherein A and B are a copolymer comprising N-vinylpyrrolidone and vinyl alcohol and C is formed from 4-isocyanatobenzoyldiphenyl phosphine oxide.

Claim 34 (Currently Amended): Macromolecular hydrophilic photocrosslinker according to claim 32, wherein A and B are a copolymer comprising N-vinylpyrrolidone and vinyl alcohol and C is <u>formed from</u> 4-isocyanato-3,5-dimethylbenzoyl diphenyl phosphine oxide.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): Macromolecular hydrophilic photocrosslinker according to claim 32, wherein R² and R³ are selected so as to form a water-soluble molecule.

Claim 36 (Previously Presented): Macromolecular hydrophilic photocrosslinker according to claim 25, wherein the photocrosslinker is provided with functional groups for crosslinking.

Claim 37 (Previously Presented): Macromolecular hydrophilic photocrosslinker according to claim 36, wherein the photocrosslinker is provided with functional groups that are selected from the group consisting of vinylic, acrylic and methacrylic groups.

Claim 38 (Previously Presented): Macromolecular hydrophilic photocrosslinker according to claim 27, wherein the photocrosslinker is provided with functional groups for crosslinking.

Claim 39 (Previously Presented): Macromolecular hydrophilic photocrosslinker according to claim 38, wherein the photocrosslinker is provided with functional groups that are selected from the group consisting of vinylic, acrylic and methacrylic groups.

Claim 40 (Previously Presented): Macromolecular hydrophilic photocrosslinker according to claim 32, wherein the photocrosslinker is provided with functional groups for crosslinking.

Claim 41 (Previously Presented): Macromolecular hydrophilic photocrosslinker according to claim 40, wherein the photocrosslinker is provided with functional groups that are selected from the group consisting of vinylic, acrylic and methacrylic groups.

Claim 42 (Currently Amended): Macromolecular hydrophilic photocrosslinker having a general formula

 $(A)_n(B)_m(C)_n$

eapable of producing, upon exposure to light, crosslinked networks, wherein

- (i) A, B and C are units of substituted ethylene groups in the macromolecular structure;
- (ii) A, B and C are randomly distributed and the unit C carries a photoactive group, which is an acyl phosphine oxide or aroyl phosphine oxide, A is N-vinylpyrrolidone and B is vinyl alcohol;
- (iii) n = 0.98 mole %, m = 0.98 mole %, n+m = 50.98 mole % and p = 0.5-50 mole %;

and wherein the photoactive groups are adapted, upon exposure to light of wavelength above 305 nm, to generate radicals retained on the macromolecular photocrosslinker and adapted to react to provide a crosslinked network structure.

Claim 43 (Currently Amended): Macromolecular hydrophilic photocrosslinker having a general formula

 $(A)_n(B)_m(C)_p$

eapable of producing, upon exposure to light, crosslinked networks, wherein

- (i) A, B and C are units of substituted ethylene groups in the macromolecular structure;
- (ii) A, B and C are randomly distributed, A is N-vinylpyrrolidone, B is vinyl acetate, which is hydrolyzable to form vinyl alcohol, and C is 4-vinylbenzoyldiphenylphosphine oxide;
- (iii) n = 0.98 mole %, m = 0.98 mole %, n+m = 50.98 mole % and p = 0.5-50 mole %;

wherein the photoactive groups are adapted, upon exposure to light of wavelength above

305 nm, to generate radicals retained on the macromolecular photocrosslinker and adapted
to react to provide a crosslinked network structure.

Claim 44 (Currently Amended): Macromolecular hydrophilic photocrosslinker having a general formula

 $(A)_n(B)_m(C)_n$

eapable of producing, upon exposure to light, crosslinked networks, wherein

- (i) A, B and C are units of substituted ethylene groups in the macromolecular structure;
- (ii) A, B and C are randomly distributed, A is N-vinylpyrrolidone, B is 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate and C is 4-vinylbenzoyl diphenylphosphine oxide;
- (iii) n = 0.98 mole %, m = 0.98 mole %, n+m = 50.98 mole % and p = 0.5-50 mole %;

wherein the photoactive groups are adapted, upon exposure to light of wavelength above 305 nm, to generate radicals retained on the macromolecular photocrosslinker and adapted to react to provide a crosslinked network structure.

Claim 45 (Currently Amended): Macromolecular hydrophilic photocrosslinker having a general formula

 $(A)_n(B)_m(C)_n$

capable of producing, upon exposure to light, crosslinked networks, wherein

- (i) A, B and C are units of substituted ethylene groups in the macromolecular structure;
- (ii) A, B and C are randomly distributed and wherein A or B is N, N-dimethylacryl amide and C is <u>formed from a compound</u> selected from the group consisting of 4-vinylbenzoyl diphenyl phosphine oxide, 4-vinyl-2,6-dimethylbenzoyl diphenyl phosphine oxide and 1,3,5-trimethylbenzoyl styrylphenyl phosphine oxide;
- (iii) n = 0.98 mole %, m = 0.98 mole %, n+m = 50.98 mole % and p = 0.5-50 mole %;

wherein the photoactive groups are adapted, upon exposure to light of wavelength above 305 nm, to generate radicals retained on the macromolecular photocrosslinker and adapted to react to provide a crosslinked network structure.

Claim 46 (Previously Presented): An aqueous composition comprising the macromolecular hydrophilic photocrosslinker according to claim 25 and (i) a hydrophilic polymer carrying functional groups for crosslinking, wherein the functional groups comprise vinylic, acrylic or methacrylic groups or a combination thereof, or (ii) at least one copolymerizable vinylic, acrylic or methacrylic monomer.

Claim 47 (Previously Presented): An aqueous composition, comprising 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate and the macromolecular hydrophilic photocrosslinker according to claim 43.

Claim 48 (Previously Presented): An aqueous composition, comprising 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate and the macromolecular hydrophilic photocrosslinker according to claim 45.

Claim 49 (Previously Presented): An aqueous composition, comprising 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate and the macromolecular hydrophilic photocrosslinker according to claim 32.

Claim 50 (Previously Presented): A composition comprising 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate and the photocrosslinker according to claim 43.

Claim 51 (Previously Presented): A composition comprising 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate and the photocrosslinker according to claim 44.

Claim 52 (Previously Presented): A composition comprising 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate and the photocrosslinker according to claim 45.

Claim 53 (Currently Amended): A method of preparing a photocrosslinker, comprising reacting a hydrophilic macromolecule of the formula

 $(A)_{n}(B)_{m}(C)_{p}$ wherein

- (i) A, B and C are units of substituted ethylene groups in the macromolecular structure;
- (ii) A, B and C are randomly distributed and at least the unit C carries a hydroxyl group;
- (iii) n = 0.98 mole %, m = 0.98 mole %, n+m 50-98 mole % and p = 0.5-50 mole %; with an isocyanate-substituted photoactive agent having the structure $-C(O)=N-R^{++}-C(O)P(O)R^9R^{+0}$ $C(O)=N-R^{++}-C(O)P(O)R^9R^{+0}$, wherein R^9 , R^{10} and R^{11} each individually comprises a phenyl, methylphenyl, dimethylphenyl, trimethylphenyl, methoxyphenyl, dimethoxyphenyl, trimethylolphenyl, methylolphenyl, trimethylolphenyl or styryl radical.

Claim 54 (Currently Amended): A method of forming a macromolecular crosslinked network from an aqueous composition comprising a photocrosslinker according to claim 25, comprising irradiating the composition with light of a wavelength exceeding 305 nm for a time sufficient to form a solid article.

Claim 55 (Previously Presented): A method of forming a macromolecular crosslinked network from an aqueous composition according to claim 54, wherein said composition further comprises at least one copolymerizable vinylic, acrylic or methacrylic monomer.

Claim 56 (Previously Presented): A method of forming a macromolecular crosslinked network from an aqueous composition according to claim 54, wherein said

composition further comprises a hydrophilic polymer provided with functional vinylic, acrylic or methacrylic groups.

Claim 57 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 56, wherein said hydrophilic polymer forms discrete crosslinkable units in a form of water-soluble particles.

Claim 58 (Currently Amended): A method of forming a macromolecular crosslinked network from an aqueous composition according to claim 48, comprising irradiating the composition with light of a wavelength exceeding 305 nm for a time sufficient to form a solid article.

Claim 59 (Currently Amended): A method of forming a macromolecular crosslinked network from an aqueous composition according to claim 49, comprising irradiating the composition with light of a wavelength exceeding 305 nm for a time sufficient to form a solid article.

Claim 60 (Currently Amended): A method of forming a macromolecular crosslinked network from an aqueous composition according to claim 50, comprising irradiating the composition with light of a wavelength exceeding 305 nm for a time sufficient to form a solid article.

Claim 61 (Currently Amended): A method of forming a macromolecular crosslinked network from an aqueous composition according to claim 51, comprising

irradiating the composition with light of a wavelength exceeding 305 nm for a time sufficient to form a solid article.

Claim 62 (Currently Amended): A method of forming a macromolecular crosslinked network from an aqueous composition according to claim 52, comprising irradiating the composition with light of a wavelength exceeding 305 nm for a time sufficient to form a solid article.

Claim 63 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 58, wherein an ophthalmic lens is produced from said composition.

Claim 64 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 59, wherein an ophthalmic lens is produced from said composition.

Claim 65 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 60, wherein an ophthalmic lens is produced from said composition.

Claim 66 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 61, wherein an ophthalmic lens is produced from said composition.

Claim 67 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 62, wherein an ophthalmic lens is produced from said composition.

Claim 68 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 63, comprising the steps of injecting the composition into a capsular bag of an eye and crosslinking the composition into a final lens product by irradiation with light of a wavelength exceeding 305 nm.

Claim 69 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 64, comprising the steps of injecting the composition into a capsular bag of an eye and crosslinking the composition into a final lens product by irradiation with light of a wavelength exceeding 305 nm.

Claim 70 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 65, comprising the steps of injecting the composition into a capsular bag of an eye and crosslinking the composition into a final lens product by irradiation with light of a wavelength exceeding 305 nm.

Claim 71 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 66, comprising the steps of injecting the composition into a capsular bag of an eye and crosslinking the composition into a final lens product by irradiation with light of a wavelength exceeding 305 nm.

Claim 72 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 67, comprising the steps of injecting the composition into a capsular bag of an eye and crosslinking the composition into a final lens product by irradiation with light of a wavelength exceeding 305 nm.

Claim 73 (Previously Presented): An ophthalmically acceptable composition comprising the photocrosslinker according to claim 25, having a refractive index of at least 1.39 and a suitable viscosity to be injected through a standard cannula of 15 Gauge or finer.

Claim 74 (Previously Presented): An ophthalmically acceptable composition comprising the photocrosslinker according to claim 27, having a refractive index of at least 1.39 and a suitable viscosity to be injected through a standard cannula of 15 Gauge or finer.

Claim 75 (Previously Presented): An ophthalmically acceptable composition comprising the photocrosslinker according to claim 32, having a refractive index of at least 1.39 and a suitable viscosity to be injected through a standard cannula of 15 Gauge or finer.

Claim 76 (Previously Presented): An ophthalmically acceptable composition comprising the photocrosslinker according to claim 42, having a refractive index of at least 1.39 and a suitable viscosity to be injected through a standard cannula of 15 Gauge or finer.

Claim 77 (Previously Presented): An ophthalmically acceptable composition comprising the photocrosslinker according to claim 43, having a refractive index of at least 1.39 and a suitable viscosity to be injected through a standard cannula of 15 Gauge or finer.

Claim 78 (Previously Presented): An ophthalmically acceptable composition comprising the photocrosslinker according to claim 44, having a refractive index of at least 1.39 and a suitable viscosity to be injected through a standard cannula of 15 Gauge or finer.

Claim 79 (Previously Presented): An ophthalmically acceptable composition comprising the photocrosslinker according to claim 45, having a refractive index of at least 1.39 and a suitable viscosity to be injected through a standard cannula of 15 Gauge or finer.

Claim 80 (Currently Amended): A method of forming a macromolecular crosslinked network from an aqueous composition comprising macromolecular hydrophilic photocrosslinker, the method comprising irradiating the composition with light of a wavelength exceeding 305 nm for a time sufficient to form an ophthalmic lens, said photocrosslinker having a general formula

 $(A)_n(B)_m(C)_n$ wherein

- (i) A, B and C are units of substituted ethylene groups in the macromolecular structure;
- (ii) A, B and C are randomly distributed and the unit C carries a photoactive group that is an acyl phosphine oxide or aroyl phosphine oxide,
- (iii) n = 0.98 mole %, m = 0.98 mole %, n+m = 50.98 mole % and p = 0.5-50 mole %;

wherein the photoactive groups are adapted, upon exposure to light of wavelength above 305 nm, to generate radicals retained on the macromolecular photocrosslinker and adapted to react to provide a crosslinked network structure.

Claim 81 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 80, wherein the photoactive group is linked to the ethylene groups of unit C by a linking group comprising a phenylene group, said phenylene group being optionally substituted.

Claim 82 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 80, wherein the composition is injected into the capsular bag of the eye and the composition is crosslinked into a final lens product by irradiation with light of a wavelength exceeding 305 nm.

Claim 83 (Currently Amended): An ophthalmically acceptable composition comprising macromolecular hydrophilic photocrosslinker having a general formula $(A)_n(B)_m(C)_p$ and eapable of producing, upon exposure to light, crosslinked networks, wherein

- (i) A, B and C are units of substituted ethylene groups in the macromolecular structure;
- (ii) A, B and C are randomly distributed and the unit C carries a photoactive group, which is an acyl phosphine oxide or aroyl phosphine oxide;
- (iii) n = 0.98 mole %, m = 0.98 mole %, n+m = 50.98 mole % and p = 0.550 mole %;

and the photoactive groups are adapted, upon exposure to light of wavelength above 305 nm, to generate radicals retained on the macromolecular photocrosslinker and adapted to react to provide a crosslinked network structure, and wherein said composition has a refractive index of at least 1.39 and a suitable viscosity to be injected through a standard cannula of 15 Gauge or finer.

Claim 84 (Previously Presented): An ophthalmically acceptable composition according to claim 83, wherein the photoactive group is linked to the ethylene groups of units C by a linking group comprising a phenylene group, said phenylene group being optionally

substituted.

Claim 85 (Currently Amended): A method of forming an intraocular lens, comprising injecting an ophthalmically acceptable composition comprising macromolecular hydrophilic photocrosslinker into the capsular bag of the eye, said photocrosslinker having a general formula $(A)_n(B)_m(C)_p$ eapable of and producing, upon exposure to light, crosslinked networks, wherein

- (i) A, B and C are units of substituted ethylene groups in the macromolecular structure;
- (ii) A, B and C are randomly distributed and the unit C carries a photoactive group, which is an acyl phosphine oxide or aroyl phosphine oxide;
- (iii) n = 0.98 mole %, m = 0.98 mole %, n+m = 50.98 mole % and p = 0.5.50 mole %;

and irradiating the composition with light of wavelength above 305 nm to generate radicals which are retained on the macromolecular photocrosslinker and react to provide a crosslinked network structure.

Claim 86 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 85, wherein the photoactive group of the photocrosslinker is linked to the ethylene groups of units C by a linking group comprising a phenylene group, said phenylene group being optionally substituted.

Claim 87 (Currently Amended): A method of forming a macromolecular crosslinked network from an aqueous composition comprising macromolecular hydrophilic

photocrosslinker, comprising irradiating the composition with light of wavelength above 305 nm for a time sufficient to form a solid article, said photocrosslinker having a general formula $(A)_n(B)_m(C)_n$ wherein

- (i) A, B and C are units of substituted ethylene groups in the macromolecular structure;
- (ii) A, B and C are randomly distributed and the unit C carries a photoactive group that is an acyl phosphine oxide or aroyl phosphine oxide,
- (iii) n = 0.98 mole %, m = 0.98 mole %, n+m = 50.98 mole % and p = 0.5-50 mole %;

wherein the photoactive groups are adapted, upon exposure to light of wavelength above 305 nm, to generate radicals retained on the macromolecular photocrosslinker and adapted to react to provide a crosslinked network structure, and wherein said composition further comprises at least one copolymerizable vinylic, acrylic or methacrylic monomer.

Claim 88 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 87, wherein the photoactive group of the photocrosslinker is linked to the ethylene groups of units C by a linking group comprising a phenylene group, said phenylene group being optionally substituted.

Claim 89 (Currently Amended): A method of forming a macromolecular crosslinked network from an aqueous composition comprising macromolecular hydrophilic photocrosslinker, comprising irradiating the composition with light of wavelength above 305 nm for a time sufficient to form a solid article, said photocrosslinker having a general formula $(A)_n(B)_m(C)_p$ wherein

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Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. 1.312 dated April 22, 2004

Reply to Examiner's Amendment dated January 22, 2004

(i) A, B and C are units of substituted ethylene groups in the macromolecular

structure;

(ii) A, B and C are randomly distributed and the unit C carries a photoactive

group that is an acyl phosphine oxide or aroyl phosphine oxide,

(iii) n = 0.98 mole %, m = 0.98 mole %, n+m = 50.98 mole % and p = 0.5-

50 mole %;

wherein the photoactive groups are adapted, upon exposure to light of wavelength above

305 nm, to generate radicals retained on the macromolecular photocrosslinker and adapted

to react to provide a crosslinked network structure, and wherein said composition further

comprises a hydrophilic polymer provided with functional vinylic, acrylic or methacrylic

groups.

Claim 90 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 89, wherein the

photoactive group of the photocrosslinker is linked to the ethylene groups of units C by a

linking group comprising a phenylene group, said phenylene group being optionally

substituted.

Claim 91 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 89, wherein said

hydrophilic polymer forms discrete crosslinkable units in the form of water-soluble

particles.

Claim 92 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 87, wherein an

ophthalmic lens is produced from said composition.

Claim 93 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 89, wherein an ophthalmic lens is produced from said composition.

Claim 94 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 92, wherein the composition is injected into the capsular bag of the eye and the composition is crosslinked into a final lens product by irradiation with light of a wavelength exceeding 305 nm.

Claim 95 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 93, wherein the composition is injected into the capsular bag of the eye and the composition is crosslinked into a final lens product by irradiation with light of a wavelength exceeding 305 nm.

Claim 96 (Previously Presented): A photoactive agent having the structure of:

Claim 97 (Previously Presented): A photoactive agent having the structure of: